Protection of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

283. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Foreign Minister has declared that his country would be glad to give guarantee for the security of proposed US$3 billion gas pipeline that would stretch from Iran to India, crossing Pakistani territory;

(b) whether Pakistan Foreign Minister had proposed a meeting between officials of the two countries to discuss the issue of protecting pipeline in Pakistan;

(c) if so, whether India, Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up this pipeline;

(d) if so, whether formalities in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Pakistan has from time to time, expressed its support for the proposal of an Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline and its willingness to address India's concerns regarding security of supply. Pakistan has also indicated its willingness to hold talks in this regard.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) No date has been fixed.

Shifting of ONGC Offices from Dehradun

†284. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the sub-offices of ONGC headquarters at Dehradun have been shifted to some other places; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification for shifting these sub-offices to some other places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) ONGC has informed that no sub-office of the Company has been shifted from Dehradun to some other places in the recent past. There is no proposal at present to shift any sub-office of ONGC from Dehradun. Employees of the Company are, however, transferred from one location to the other as per administrative and functional requirements of the company.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

ONGC's Overseas Acquisition

285. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC Videsh Ltd., the overseas investments arm of ONGC, has chalked out a comprehensive plan for acquisition of oil and gas fields abroad to augment the country's energy security;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the likely project-wise investments and additional oil or gas potential expected therefrom; and

(c) the present status of similar major acquisitions made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. To enhance energy security of the country, ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), is pursuing acquisition of equity oil abroad, as well as acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement annexed.